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Message Text

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13
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 SCA-01 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /074 W
---------- 059681
R 030733Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3177
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 7219

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, JO
SUBJECT: UNRWA DEFICIT: EFFECTS ON JORDAN

1. IN DECEMBER 2 CALL ON MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION DR. SUBHI AMIN AMIR, HE MADE PLEA FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE IN MEETING THE $45 MILLION PROJECTED UNRWA BUDGET DEFICIT PROJECTED FOR 1975.

2. AMIR ASSESSED POLITICAL EFFECTS IN JORDAN OF SUCH A CUT-BACK OF UNRWA ASSISTANCE AS "CATASTROPHIC". IN MORE BALANCED ASSESSMENT, AMIR SAID THAT REFUGEES OVER PAST 25 YEARS HAVE BUILT UP A PATTERN OF EXPECTIONS REGARDING UNRWA SERVICES. ANY SIGNIFICANT SHORTFALL IN UNRWA DELIVERY AS RATIONS OR HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES WOULD HAVE EXTREMELY ADVERSE EFFECT ON REFUGEES.

3. SECONDLY, ANY ATTEMPT TO ADJUST STATUS OF REFUGEES BY REDUCING REFUGEE RATION ROLES WOULD BE EQUALLY DANGEROUS.
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HE SAID MOST PRECIOUS DECUMENT IN REFUGEES' POSSESSION IS

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THEIR RATION CARD, WHICH IN THEIR MINDS IS KEY TO EVENTUAL
POSSESSION OF THEIR PROPERTY AND "RIGHTS" IN PALESTINE AS
PROMISED BY UNITED NATIONS. WHILE HE COULD NOT PREDICT
PRECISELY THE OUTCOME OF A LARGE SHORTFALL IN UNRWA SERVICES,
AMIR SAID THAT IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASE UNREST IN CAMPS
AND "OPEN DOOR TO FEDAYEEN EXTREMISTS LIKE HABBASH AND HAWATMAH."

4. I EXPLAINED U.S. DIFFICULTIES REGARDING HELPING TO COVER LARGE
UNRWA DEFICIT, BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES GIVEEN
FACT OF U.S. DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND OUR DESIRE TO REDUCE
GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES. I ALSO INDICATED OUR HEOPE THAT THE ARAB OIL

PRODUCING COUNTRIES COULD OFFER SMALL PROTION OF THEIR MASSIVE REVENUES

FOR UNRWA EXPENSES. AMIR AGREED BUT DID NOT EVEINCE MUCH
OPTIMISM DUE TO FACT THAT ARAB OIL PRODUCERS CONSIDER THIS
PRIMARILY UN AND WESTERN PROBLEM.

5. AMIR CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT U.S. CAN AGAIN EXERT ITS
LEADERSHIP WITH OTHER NATIONS TO MEET "FRIGHTENING" UNRWA DEFICIT,
WHICH HE SAID IS NOW LARGER THAN ENTIRE UNRWA BUDGET IN 1967.
PICKERING

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